

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A personal computer [(2)] is responsive to the presence of an ~~authorised~~authorized user to transmit release signals ~~from a~~from one CPU ~~22 to a~~to another CPU [(28)] to cause the latter CPU [(28)] to effect the release of a locking mechanism [(34)] controlling access to drawers of a desk or filing cabinet for example. In the absence of periodic refresher signals from the ~~PC 2~~first CPU, the ~~CPU 28~~second CPU causes the locking mechanism to lock the drawers to prevent ~~unauthorised~~unauthorized access. The transmitted signals from the ~~PC 2~~second CPU may also be used to prevent or allow use of electrical or electronic apparatuses and/or to control environmental conditions appropriate to the presence or absence of users.